

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00638 120851Z

13-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CAB-05 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 EB-07 FAA-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 /035 W

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O 120801Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3807

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASS MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PRETORKA 0638

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AO, US

SUBJ: ALLEGED DETENTION OF US CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 34135

LATE EDITION JOHANNESBURG STAR FEB 11 CARRIED STORY HEADLINED
QTE MPLA ARRESTS CREW OF US PLANE UNQTE. FULL TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE. THE MPLA HAVE APPARENTLY ARRESTED THE OCCUPANTS OF AN
AMERICAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT SAID TO HAVE LANDED IN NORTHERN
ANGOLA WHILE FLYING FROM MIAMI TO SOUTH AFRICA.
THE FOKKER 27 AIRCRAFT LANED AT TWILIGHT ON MONDAY
AT SANTO ANTONIO DO ZAIRE, A TOWN AT THE MOUTH OF THE ZAIRE
RIVER THAT THE MPLA CAPTURED FROM THE FNLA ON SATURDAY.
A LUANDA RAO BROADCAST SAID THE PLANE HAS STOPPED
IN THE AZORES AFTER CROSSING THE ATLANTIC.
THE RADIO SAID THE MEN IN THE PLANE SAID THEY WERE HEADING
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00638 120851Z

FOR LIBREVILLE IN GABON, ABOUT 500 KM NORTH OF SANTO

ANTONTO DO ZAIRE.THEYHAD LANDED IN ANGOLA
DUE TO A NAVIGATIONAL ERROR.
VISAS
THIS WAS A LIE, SAID LUANDA RADIO, BECAUSE THE MEN'S
PASSPORTS HAD VISAS ONLY FOR SOUTH AFRICA.
THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN JOHANNESBURG CONFIRMED
TODAY THAT US CITIZENS NEED VISAS TO ENTER GABON.
THE MPLA SECRETARY-GENERAL, LUCIO LARA, WAS QUOTED BY THE
RADIO AS SAYING NEITHER THE AIRCRAFT NOR ITS CREW
WERE CARRYING ANY DOCUMENTS TO INDICATE WHERE THEY WERE
HEADING FOR.
THE BROADCAST DID NOT IDENTIFY THE MEN OR SAY WHAT HAD
HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER THEY LANDED. BUT BECAUSE
THEY WERE DESCRIBED AS " CRIMINALS" INDICATES THEY HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED.
THE BROADCAST SAID THE FACT THAT THE PLANELANDED AT
SANTO ANTONIO DO ZAIRE WHILE ON FLIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA
"CONFIRMEDONCE AGAIN THE US IMPERIALISTS' INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLAN
AFFAIRS".
BOWDLER

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